

LUTHER'S WEDDING RING.

A Curious Relic of the Great Reformers Owned by a New York Man.

Adolph Seeman, of Newark, N. J., has a remarkable relic in his possession. It is nothing less than the ring which Martin Luther, the founder of Protestantism, placed on the finger of his bride on his wedding day. The ring is of pure gold, antique in design, curiously wrought and fully 365 years old. The claims in favor of the authenticity of the relic are certainly strong.

Seeman, who is a professional conjurer by occupation, is the son of the late Baron Harding Seeman, of Sweden. The Baron was a famous conjurer in his day and nation. As Seeman tells the story, an elderly noble woman died thirty years ago in a castle in the suburbs of Stockholm. As there were no claimants to her property the State took charge of it and sold the castle and its contents at auction. A gentleman named Hammer purchased the entire collection of jewelry, among which was the ring referred to.

Not being familiar with the history of the ring, he disposed of it to Baron Seeman for \$5. A few years later, when the Baron and his son were visiting America, a copy of the German monthly *Gastelnaube*, published at Dresden, came to them, containing an illustration of a ring for which the city of Isleben, Germany, the great reformer's birthplace, offered a reward of \$1,000. The illustration and accompanying description tallied exactly with the ring in the Baron's possession, and the latter at once started for Germany to lay claim to the reward.

There was no difficulty in establishing the fact that the ring was in reality Luther's wedding ring, but upon second thought the Baron concluded not to sell for the amount that had been offered. Accordingly he returned to America with the remarkable relic adorning his finger, and three years ago, when his death took place, the ring became the property of his son, who to-day would scarcely part with it for a mint of money.

As an illustration of the skill exhibited by the artisans of three centuries ago, Luther's wedding-ring furnishes a marked example. Although considerably worn by its long period of existence, it is in almost perfect condition. Upon one of the broad yet delicately-constructed sides the crucifixion of Christ is admirably delineated.

The figure is stretched on the cross, with the nails in the feet and one in either hand, as familiarized by the old masters. A spear, scourge, cap of a Roman soldier, all emblematic, and even the dice with which the garments of the Saviour were gambled for, are all clearly depicted. On the opposite side the pillar of a Jewish temple is presented with the sword of Justice overheard.

A ladder-rope—the latter winding about the pillar—a sponge and hammer, suggestive of every incident in the death scene, are clearly shown, and on the cross—appears the letters, "I. N. R. I." (Jesus Nazarenus Rex Judee). A powerful glass reveals the initials "M. L." on the interior, while the whole is surmounted by a small ruby, beautifully set, and supposed to typify the blood that flowed from the Saviour's side.—N. Y. Mail and Express.

BARON VON STUBEN.

The Great Work of the Prussian Soldier in the Revolutionary Army.

After his interview with Congress, Steuben repaired at once to Valley Forge, where Washington was not slow in recognizing his ability; nor was Steuben, on the other hand, at a loss to perceive, in the ragged and motley army which he passed in review, the existence of soldierly qualities which needed nothing so much as training. Disregarding the English prejudice which looked upon the drilling of soldiers as work fit only for sergeants, he took music in hand and showed what he was capable of doing. After that, he worked from morning till night in showing the men how to advance, retreat or change front without falling into disorder—how to perform, in short, all the rapid and accurate movements for which the Prussian army had become so famous. It was a revelation to the American troops. Generals, Colonels and Captains were fired by the contagion of his example and for several months the camp was converted into a huge training-school, in which masters and pupils worked with incessant and furious energy. Steuben was struck with the quickness with which the common soldiers learned their lessons. He had a harmlessly choleric temper, which was part of his overflowing vigor, and sometimes, when drilling an awkward squad, he would exhaust his stock of French and German oaths, and shout for his aid to come and curse the blockheads in English. "Viens, mon ami Walker," he would say—"viens, mon ami. Sacre-bleu-Gott-Verdamme die gaucherie de ces badauds. Je ne puis plus. I can curse dem no more!" Yet in an incredibly short time, as he afterward wrote, these awkward fellows had acquired a military air, had learned how to carry their arms, and knew how to form into column, deploy and execute maneuvers with precision.

In May, 1778, after three months of such work, Steuben was appointed Inspector-General of the army, with the rank and pay of Major-General. The reforms which he introduced were so far-reaching that after a year they were said to have saved more than 800,000 French lives to the United States. No accounts had been kept of arms and accoutrements, and owing to the careless good-nature which allowed every recruit to carry his musket as a keepsake, there had been a loss of from five to eight thousand muskets annually. During the first year of Steuben's inspectorship less than twenty muskets were lost. Half of the arms at Valley Forge were found by Steuben without bayonets. The American soldier had no faith in this weapon, because he did not know how to use it; when he did not throw it away he adapted it to culinary purposes.

holding on its point the beef which he roasted before his camp-fire. Yet, in little more than a year after Steuben's arrival he shall see an American column, without firing a gun, storm the works at Stony Point in one of the most spirited bayonet charges known to history.—John Fiske, in *Atlantic*.

DANGER FOR INVALIDS.

The Ocean Not a Good Health Resort for Consumptives.

Of ten consumptives on board the same vessel, six, if not more, died among strangers in various parts of the colonies soon after their arrival. It (a long sea voyage) is simply a fatal remedy to those in advanced stages of the disease. If we trace the course of a sailing ship on such a voyage, does it not stand to reason that a patient, to benefit by it, must be strong enough at starting to withstand the inclemencies of the weather and drawbacks? Let us take, for instance, the case of a patient sailing in a well-appointed ship in September for Australia or New Zealand. He finds himself pacing up and down deck to keep warm in the cool autumn sea breeze, which frequently necessitates greatcoats and pea jackets even for the healthy. He goes down into the saloon as the evening comes on, and finds such draughts there as would frighten him or his physician if on land. Here he has to remain all the evening, making the best of it, or, if he finds it too unbearable, he tries to find refuge in his private cabin, which he has probably to share with one or two companions, and which he finds very close and lacking the fresh air he would obtain in an airy bed-room on shore. An equinoctial gale is not unusually met with before getting away from our coasts, with all its concomitant miseries of seasickness and enforced confinement to the lower regions, with its draughts or want of ventilation, the deck being probably too wet or slippery for any thing but a struggle to the smoking-room, with its vitiated air. After this a much more pleasant time usually sets in, lasting through the northeast trades, which carry the ship well into the tropics. During this period the patient usually greatly benefits—that is, if he has been able to brave the first fortnight at sea. But again, he has to face another trial of his strength in the heat and moisture of the tropics. . . . Not infrequently advanced cases terminate fatally in this region. . . . Having successfully passed through this region also, the patient is now braced up again. This is the most delightful run, from about fifteen degrees south to forty degrees south, through which he is carried by the southeast trades in splendid weather, and which usually lasts till the latitude of the Cape of Good Hope is reached. Here trials again await the invalid, for not only is a heavy sea generally met with, but ice is often near at hand and the cold is so great as to give the majority of patients chills and chilblains, and render it necessary for the healthy to run about on deck or take part in athletic exercises to keep warm. The invalid, being unable to join in such pursuits, has to wrap up and keep himself warm as best he can while on deck, and when he has to "turn in," no warmth, no fire is to be obtained, and he has to seek his bunk shivering, with the hope of finding the warmth in bed which he is unable to gain elsewhere.—The Ocean as a Health Resort in Phthisis, by Dr. Coupland Taylor.

A CONVENIENT GARMENT.

How Housekeepers Can Avoid Much Inconvenience in Winter.

It is not always easy to devise a morning dress for winter. That is a morning dress for a woman who has to take the things of the breakfast table, carry them into the kitchen, and then dust and arrange several rooms in addition to making beds.

On account of the season any thing but a stuff dress is, of course, out of the question, and any stuff dress, even if protected by a large apron and extra sleeves, soon becomes dusty and shabby when worn for housework. Sometimes an errand must be done immediately after breakfast. When this is the case, unless an ulster or newmarket can be donned, it is necessary (if arrayed for work) to change one's dress for the street and, on returning, to change it again for the housework which one has, of course, been obliged to leave. All this inconvenience may be avoided by having an overdress. Put on in the morning a dress by which you will be prepared either to receive visitors or to go out. Before engaging in any kind of housework, put on over this dress a wrapper made just wide enough to admit of its going on over the dress with ease. It may be made of calico, gingham, seersucker, or any similar material. It should be worn with a belt of the same sewed at the back, and fastened in front with a button. The sleeves should be gathered into a band, and buttoned around the wrist, while a broad band around the neck protects the collar of the dress.

Amenities of the Lower Ten.

Mrs. Envy (meeting Mrs. Gethar on the street)—Why, Mrs. Gethar, you look so well; I didn't know you at first. Mrs. Gethar—Is it really you, Mrs. Envy? Don't you know I mistook you for your sister. How becoming her clothes are to you.—Time.

—A Sensible Agent.—An agent who had made a study of human nature, stopped at a gate on Second avenue the other day, and asked of a small boy digging plantains out of the grass: "Bub, is your mother home?" "Yes." "Changed hired girls within a week?" "No, sir." "House cleaning all done?" "Yes, sir." "Got her new spring bonnet?" "She has." "Children well?" "Yes, sir." "Father go away good natured this morning?" "He did." "Then I guess I'll ring the bell and try to sell her a picture." She took two, and asked him to call in a day or two with a seven-dollar family Bible.

TUTORED BY ALEXANDER.

A Student Who Was Cooched in Latin by the Czar of Russia.

A student of medicine now at the Berlin University was once tutored by Alexander III., the Czar of all the Russias. It happened in this wise: For some time during the Russian-Turkish war the headquarters of the present Czar, then the heir apparent, were in Plojeschti. His private rooms were in the house of the rich Jewish banker, Jacob Nissim, the uncle of the young Russian student of medicine now in Berlin. During his residence there the Prince became quite intimate with the Nissim family. He was very fond of music, and Mme. Nissim played the piano with rare cleverness. All the time that he could spare from his official duties the Prince passed in her drawing-room. Not infrequently she accompanied on the piano the Russian baritone voice, long since famous at the St. Petersburg court.

One afternoon he noticed that Mme. Nissim played very perfunctorily and looked very unhappy. In response to his inquiries she told him a long story about her very perverse little nephew who played hokey all the time, hated his teacher, and couldn't learn Latin. She had just looked over the small boy's Latin composition, and had found every sentence lurid with the teacher's corrective red ink. Although she knew nothing about Latin, the amount of red ink in her nephew's exercise book had convinced her that he was a dunce and a disgrace to the Nissim family. The Prince comforted her by promising to take a hand in the education of the naughty young Nissim, and to have him up in the first grade at school in no time. He was true to his word. He captured the small boy immediately after supper every night, set him down to a table in his uncle's library, and compelled him to write Latin till the little child didn't know the difference between tempus and sursum. The day after a short recess the Prince told him Russian bear stories and all about camp life. The last half hour of each evening was devoted to correcting young Nissim's Latin and rewriting the exercises.

A few weeks of this coaching made wonderful changes in the boy's school record. He quit playing hokey because he wished to obey the big Prince who told him to quit it. His Latin composition was almost untouched by the teacher's red ink. Eventually the Prince put him just where he had promised Mme. Nissim to put him—in the first school grade.

Young Nissim has not forgotten much concerning his early association with Alexander III. Unlike most Russians who have studied abroad, he still has a long, broad and deep place in his heart for the Czar. His memory is full of interesting reminiscences of the peculiarities of the Czar in the days during the Russian-Turkish war. The Czar was then subject to terrible headaches. He refused to treat them with doctors' prescriptions, but whenever it rained he ran out of the house bare-headed and held his head under the dripping eaves. He considered the falling drops a sure temporary cure for his ailment. The Prince was much fonder of his relations than most Princes. The walls of his study were lined with pictures of his family. He had a long, broad and deep place in his heart for the Czar. His memory is full of interesting reminiscences of the peculiarities of the Czar in the days during the Russian-Turkish war. The Czar was then subject to terrible headaches. 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